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Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drug Abuse Trends in Washington State – 2003 contains information and data from a wide variety of federal and state government agencies. Given the diverse indicators included in this Report, data sources differ significantly with regard to methodology, sampling and collection procedures, as well as in the reliability and validity of the data. Report users are encouraged to consult the original data sources for more detailed information.

National Sources

Monitoring the Future (MTF) (www.isr.umich.edu/src/mtf)

Conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, and supported by research grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Monitoring the Future (MTF) project studies changes in the beliefs, attitudes, and behavior of young people in the United States. Surveys have been carried out each year since 1975. Students in the 8th, 10th, and 12th grades complete self-administered, machine-readable questionnaires in their classrooms. Surveys are administered from February to May, invalidating direct comparisons with results from a similar survey – the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors – which is administered in October. Data are used to monitor trends in substance use and abuse among adolescents, and progress toward national education goals for safe, disciplined, and alcohol- and drug-free goals. Results are also used in development of the White House National Drug Control Strategy.

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) (www.nida.nih.gov/)

The mission of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is to lead the nation in bringing the power of science to bear on drug abuse and addiction. NIDA seeks to accomplish this mission through the strategic support and conduct of research across a broad range of disciplines. NIDA supports over 85% of the world's research on health-related aspects of drug abuse and addiction. NIDA also works to ensure the rapid and effective dissemination and use of results from research to significantly improve drug abuse and addiction prevention, treatment, and policy. NIDA is one of the 19 institutes that comprise the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) (www.niaaa.nih.gov/)

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) is one of 19 institutes that comprise the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the principal biomedical research agency of the federal government. NIAAA provides leadership in the national effort to reduce alcohol-related problems by:

- Conducting and supporting research in a wide range of scientific areas including genetics, neuroscience, epidemiology, health risks and benefits of alcohol consumption, prevention, and treatment;
- Coordinating and collaborating with other research institutes and federal programs on alcohol-related issues;
- Collaborating with international, national, state, and local institutions, organizations, agencies, and programs engaged in alcohol-related work; and



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- Translating and disseminating research findings to health care providers, researchers, policymakers, and the public.

NIAAA-supported research and direction are aimed at:

- Removing the stigma associated with the common complex disease of alcoholism;
- Revealing genetic, other biological, and sociocultural origins of variations in individual responses to alcohol and the consequent risks and benefits of alcohol to health;
- Developing effective prevention and treatments that address the physical, behavioral, and social risks attributable to excessive and underage alcohol consumption, and the chronic relapsing nature of alcoholism; and
- Improve the acceptance of, and access to, quality care.

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/)

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), part of the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice, is the nation's leading source from criminal justice-related data. BJS collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates data on crime, criminal offenders, victims, of crime, and the operation of, and expenditures related to, justice systems at all levels of government. These data are use by federal, state, and local policymakers.

Annually, BJS publishes *Bureau of Justice Statistics Key Crime Statistics at a Glance*, a summary of information and data most recently gathered. This report can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance.htm#Crime.

Federal Bureau of Investigation – Uniform Crime Reports (www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) collects crime statistics from nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States, covering approximately 95% of the population. Data are gathered by state and local agencies and submitted to the FBI. Data related to eight categories of crime are gathered: 1) murder and nonnegligent manslaughter; 2) forcible rape; 3) robbery; 4) aggravated assault; 5) burglary; 6) larceny-theft; 7) motor vehicle theft; and 8) arson.

The primary limitation of UCR is that it measures reported crime rather than all crimes committed. Reported levels may vary from community to community as a result of a wide variety of factors, including funding and aggressiveness of local law enforcement agencies. The FBI operates two other reporting systems. The National Crime Victimization Survey collects data on unreported as well as reported crime by surveying a representative sample of households. The National Incident-Based Reporting Systems presents comprehensive, detailed information about crime incidents to law enforcement, researchers, and planners.



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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (www.cdc.gov)

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the lead federal agency charged with protecting the health and safety of Americans, providing information for making health decisions, and promoting and protecting the nation's health through strong partnerships. CDC serves as the national focus for developing and applying disease prevention and control strategies, environmental health approaches, and health promotion and education activities. There are 11 national centers.

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) (www.cdc.gov/ncipc/)

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) works to reduce morbidity, disability, mortality, and costs associated with injuries occurring outside the workplace. One of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NCIPC conducts and supports research about causes, risk factors, and preventive measures for injuries outside the workplace, including:

- Unintentional injuries related to falls, fires, drowning, poisoning, motor vehicle crashes (including those involving pedestrians), sports and recreational activities, and playgrounds and day-care settings;
- Intentional injuries related to homicide, suicide, youth violence, intimate partner violence, child maltreatment, and sexual violence; and
- Improving health and quality of life after injuries and preventing secondary conditions among people with disabilities.

NCIPC also funds research by universities and other public and private groups studying the three phases of injury control (prevention, acute care, and rehabilitation) and the two major disciplines of injury control (epidemiology and biomechanics).

HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report (www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/hasrlink.htm)

The HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report is published annually by the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, CDC. It contains data about U.S. AIDS and HIV case reports, including data by state, metropolitan statistical area, mode of exposure to HIV, gender, race/ethnicity, age, vital status, and case definition category.

National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHSTP) – Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/nchstp.html)

CDC's Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) provides national leadership through research, policy development, and support of effective services to prevent STDs (including HIV infection) and their complications, such as enhanced HIV transmission, infertility, adverse outcomes of pregnancy, and reproductive tract cancers. The Division assists health departments, health care providers, and non-governmental organizations and collaborates with other governmental entities through the development, syntheses, translation, and dissemination of timely, science-based information; the development



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of goals and science-based policy; and the development and support of science-based programs that meet the needs of communities.

National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHSTP) – Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/surv/surv.htm)

The NCHSTP Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE) seeks to provide leadership in preventing, controlling, and eventually eliminating tuberculosis (TB) in the U.S., in collaboration with partners at the community, state, and international levels. To accomplish this mission, the DTBE carries out the following activities:

- Develops and advocates effective and appropriate TB prevention and control policies;
- Supports a nationwide framework for monitoring TB morbidity and mortality;
- Detects and investigates TB outbreaks;
- Conducts clinical, epidemiological, behavioral, and operational research to enhance TB prevention and control efforts;
- Evaluates prevention effectiveness;
- Provides funding and technical assistance to state and local health departments; and
- Provides training, education, and technical information services to state and local health departments.

DBTE publishes an annual TB Surveillance Report. The reports include statistics on tuberculosis case counts and case rates by states and metropolitan statistical areas with tables of selected demographic and clinical characteristics (e.g., race/ethnicity, age group, country of origin, form of disease, drug resistance, etc.)

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) (<http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>)

CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion administers the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), the world's largest telephone survey. Based on an understanding that personal health behaviors play a major role in premature morbidity and mortality, BRFSS facilitates the collection of behavior-related data on a state-specific basis. State-level surveillance of prevalence of major behavioral risks assists states in planning, initiating, supporting, and evaluating health promotion and disease prevention programs.

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) (www.cdc.gov/nchs)

CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) provides statistical information to be used by policymakers and health professionals to improve the health of the American people. As the nation's principal health statistics agency, NCHS is responsible for providing accurate, relevant, and timely data. NCHS has two major types of data systems: those based on



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populations, containing data collected through personal interviews or examinations; and those containing data collected from vital and medical records.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) (www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov)

The Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) facilitates the collection and reporting of data for all fatal crashes involving automobiles in the United States, and provides a basis for evaluation of overall highway safety, motor vehicle safety standards, and highway safety initiatives and programs. FARS maintains cooperative agreements with agencies in each state to collect and report fatal crash data in a standard format. Data is available through a web-based “encyclopedia”.



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State Sources

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Divisions of Alcohol and Substance Abuse - TARGET

TARGET (Treatment Assessment Report Generation Tool) is a reporting management information system used by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Reporting is required for treatment agencies providing public sector-contracted/funded treatment services and optional for private pay individuals served. TARGET information collection is based on establishing a baseline at admission to treatment and capturing/identifying changes to that baseline upon discharge, thus providing information on progress during treatment.

Office of Financial Management – Population Trends for Washington State (<http://www.ofm.wa.gov>)

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) provides official population counts and estimates. Population figures reported by OFM include all persons who normally reside in the state, including military personnel and dependants, persons in correctional institutions, residents of nursing care facilities, and college students.

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and Research and Data Analysis – Washington Needs Assessment Household Survey (<http://psy.utmb.edu>)

The Washington Needs Assessment Household Survey (WANAHS) was a statewide survey of over 7,000 adults designed to measure the prevalence of substance use and need for treatment. The survey was conducted over a 14-month period from September 1993 through October 1994. The WANAHS sample included large number of minorities and other groups in order to facilitate demographic analysis. Several statewide and county-level profiles have been prepared based on WANAHS, the most recent being *Profile of Substance Use and Need for Treatment in Washington State* (1999).

Washington State Department of Health – Center for Health Statistics (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/>)

Data used come from Certificates of Live Birth, Fetal Death, Death, Marriage, and Dissolution. Data for Washington State Vital Statistics are compiled for each year from certificates received before April 15 of the following year.

Washington State Department of Health, Office of Hospital and Patient Data System – Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System

The Washington State Department of Health's Comprehensive Abstract Reporting System (CHARS) monitors hospital admission trends, causes of hospitalization, and other indices used to evaluate the quality and accessibility of health care in Washington. Key data elements include patients' age, sex, physician, primary and secondary diagnoses, principal and secondary procedures, length of stay, and discharge status.



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CHARS does not include data from federal, military and Veteran's Administration hospitals. Also excluded from the system are emergency room visits, data from outpatient facilities, surgery centers, birthing centers, and free-standing mental health, substance abuse, and rehabilitation centers or clinics.

Washington Traffic Safety Commission (<http://www.wa.gov/wtsc/index.htm>)

Collaboration among state, federal, and local partners is key in designing and implementing successful traffic safety programs. Each year the federal government allocates part of the federal Highway Trust Fund to the states to carry out highway safety programs. The Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) has administered these funds and facilitates these efforts in Washington State since 1967. Governor Gary Locke serves as WTSC chair. WTSC offers several programs, including the following: Impaired Driving, Community DUI & Traffic Safety Programs, Occupant Protection, Police, Traffic Records and Research, Youth, College-Age, Pedestrian/Bicycle, and Public Information and Education.

Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors.

The Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors (WSSAHB) provides information about the health attitudes and behaviors of Washington youth. A student survey has been conducted in Washington in even-numbered years since 1988, under the auspices of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The WSSAHB includes a sample of public schools students in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. The survey provides information on tobacco, alcohol and other drug use, violence, related risk and protective factors, and demographics (age, race, and gender).

Survey samples are selected using a stratified cluster sampling procedure, with schools being the primary sampling unit. Data from student surveys are useful for obtaining statewide estimates of the prevalence of health risk behaviors among youth, examining trends and patterns in risk behaviors, and establishing profiles of persons at risk. Caveats related to the data include:

- Students survey does not represent youth who have dropped out of school. It is thought to be likely that these youth are the most likely to engage in high-risk behavior.
- Health risk behaviors may be underestimated as it is self-reported. Willingness to self-report behavior is subject to social acceptability norms.
- Changes in time of year for survey administration means that students may differ in age and experience from survey to survey, and seasonality factors may affect results. In such instances (as in 2002), data may not be comparable with previous surveys or with national surveys conducted at a different time of year.

